

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 12247 261951Z

12

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R 261445Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2759

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO POUCH

AMEMBASSY JIDDAH

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ECON ENRG, SA XF

SUBJ: FALLACI INTERVIEW WITH SHEIK YAMANI

1. EMBASSY HAS POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT/COPY OF RECENT INTERVIEW BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA'S SHEIK YAMANI AND GADFLY REPORTER ORIANA FALLACI IN MILAN WEEKLY, L'EUROPEO, AUGUST 22. MAJOR THEMES ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.

2. OIL: USE AS A WEAPON, AVAILABILITY, AND PRICES. YAMANI SAYS THAT IF ISRAEL DOES NOT RETURN OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES (NO TIME LIMIT SPECIFIED) THE ARABS WILL USE ALL AVAILABLE WEAPONS FROM THE UN TO PETROLEUM. IN WAR ALL MEANS ARE LEGITIMATE. PERSONALLY YAMANI WOULD REALLY HATE TO USE PETROLEUM AS A WEAPON. THAT WOULD BE EXCESSIVE AND HE DOESN'T RELY ON EXCESS IF HE CAN RESORT TO OTHER MEANS. HOWEVER, WITH A CAPACITY TO PRODUCE MORE THAN 11 MILLION BARRELS A DAY VS. THE 3.5 MILLION ACTUALLY BEING LIFTED, SAUDI ARABIA IS IN A POWERFUL POSITION. TO RUIN THE OTHER OPEC STATES,

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ROME 12247 261951Z

IT WOULD SUFFICE FOR SAUDI ARABIA TO PRODUCE LESS THAN NOW.

IN ANY EVENT, ACCORDING TO THE WORLD BANK AND VARIOUS COMMERCIAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS CHASE MANHATTAN, THE WORLD ECONOMY HASN'T REALLY SUFFERED FROM THE INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF PETROLEUM. AS EVIDENCE, CONSIDER THAT RECOVERY HAS ALREADY BEGUN IN GERMANY FRANCE, OTHER EUROPEAN STATES (ITALY NOT AMONG THEM) AND EVEN THE UNITED STATES.

3. ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCY AND PETRODOLLARS. YAMANI WELCOMES RECOVERY. THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD'S ECONOMIC DISASTER WOULD BE THE ARAB'S AS WELL. MONEY MEANS NOTHING IN ITSELF. IT COUNTS ONLY IF PUT BACK INTO THE CYCLE AND TRANSFORMED INTO INDUSTRY., TECHNOLOGY. IF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES ARE NOT PROSPEROUS THE ARABS CAN'S IMPORT WESTERN INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY.

4. ISRAEL AND THE PLO. THE SAUDIS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE DECISION AS TO THETHER ISRAEL HAS A RIGHT TO EXIST SINCE THEY ARE NOT INVOLVED IN IT (SIC.) THEY DON'T HAVE COMMON BORDERS WITH ISRAEL. THEY WILL NOT OPPOSE WHAT IS DECIDED BY THE COUNTRIES AROUND ISRAEL. HOWEVER THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT ISRAEL ACCEPT TO LIVE WITHIN CERTAIN CONFINES IN PEACE, CEASING ITS EXPANSIONIST POLICY. ONLY WHEN THE PALESTINE PROBLEM IS SOLVED WILL THE PETROLEUM PROBLEM BE SOLVED.

5. THE UNITED STATES, THE USSR AND COMMUNISM. SAUDI ARABIA DIDN'T TAKE THE AMERICAN THREAT OF MILITARY INTERVENTION SERIOUSLY. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ECONOMIC SUICIDE AND ANYWAY KISSINGER AND FORD HAVE SAID THAT THIS HAD NO PART IN AMERICAN PLANS. "I DON'T SEE ANYTHING WRONG IN AFFIRMING THAT I AM A GREAT /FRIEND OF THE AMERICANS. I AM A FRIEND OF ANY COUNTRY THAT IS A FRIEND OF SAUDI ARABIA OR WHICH HAS THE SAME INTERESTS AS THE SAUDIS. I LIKE AMERICA, EVERYONE KNOWS IT. I HAVE STUDIED AND LIVED THERE ALMOST FOUR YEARS. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT I THROW MYSELF AT THE FEET OF AMERICA NOR THAT, WHEN A CONFLICT OF INTEREST BREAKS OUT, I BECOME THEIR ENEMY." AS FOR THE RUSSIANS, THE SAG BANNED THEM MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS AGO WHEN THEY WERE DISCOVERED PREPARING TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNIST MOVEMENT AT JIDDAH TO OVERTHROW THE REGIME. AND FROM THAT TIME THE SAUDIS FEAR THEM TO THE POINT WHERE THE SAG DOESN'T WANT EVEN AN EMBASSY FROM ONE OF THEIR SATELLITES. "COMMUNISM DESTROYS THE INDIVIDUAL AND HUMAN UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 ROME 12247 261951Z

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